

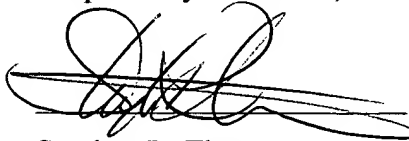
REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claim 15 is canceled. The erroneous paragraph appearing after claim 14 is removed. This amendment merely cancels a claim and removes an erroneous paragraph that appeared after claim 14 and before claim 15 in the previous response. The amendments do not raise new issues that would require further search or consideration. The amendments do not raise the issue of new matter. Because the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are now overcome, the amendments place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. Therefore, the amendments should be entered for the purposes of appeal.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: Jan 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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